

Ancient Civilizations Project

As part of your study on Ancient Civilizations, you will be required to research and present information to the class on an ancient civilization. The project will consist of two components:

1. PowerPoint component
2. Oral Presentation

Research & preparation - You will be given time in class to complete your research & project. Time away from school may be required to complete this assignment as well. Students will have two weeks to research topics, gather relevant information, design & create their PowerPoint presentation, & organize/practice their oral presentation.

Due Date: Thursday, February 28. Presentations will occur over two or three classes, beginning on Monday, March 4.

Groups - Students will be assigned groups by luck of the draw.

Selecting a civilization - We have introduced to you both cultural universals and the characteristics of a civilization in class. These themes should be an important emphasis to your presentation.

Our selection of ancient civilizations will come from the list below. Please make sure you have adequate information pertaining to the civilization you are to research.

1. Ancient China
2. Egypt
3. Maya
4. Aztec
5. Ancient Indus Valley
6. Mesopotamia
7. Inca

Resources - Students are encouraged to use a variety of resources available to them in order to gather data for their civilization (books, internet, videos, artifacts, illustrations, posters, atlases, encyclopedia, CD-ROMs, etc.). Each group is to provide a MLA format work cited page on project due date.

Ancient Civilizations Project Guidelines/Suggestions

1. Organize your group and discuss what you know about your topic.
2. Complete the research first, and then decide what information is most important to be included in your project.

3. Keep research & graphics stored in one place (with a backup) so items don't get lost or misplaced.
4. When doing the presentation remember not to just read what is written. Show pictures & use graphics as much as possible. This will help make your presentation more interesting.
5. During your presentation be sure to touch on each of the criteria that were assigned. They don't need to be done in that particular order, but they all need to be addressed.

Research Notes

Geography - Where were they located? What is that place called today? What effect did the geographic setting have on the civilization that grew there? Were they geographically isolated from other civilizations? Were they exposed to large bodies of water?

Time Period - When did they emerge as a civilization? When were they at their peak? How long were they around? When did they fall?

Government - What type of ruler ship did they have? How were they organized? What type of laws did they have? What were their courts like?

Economy - What role did trade and commerce have in this civilization? What were their major products for trade? How did their geography affect their trade? Was their economy based on a division of social classes? If so, what were they?

Beliefs - What kind of religion or worship did they practice? Were they Polytheistic? Monotheistic? Was their religion and their government combined? Did they believe in life after death?

Technology - What innovations were made in this civilization? Did they have a calendar? Did they have irrigation systems? How did they build their buildings? Roads?

Writing - What form of communication did they use? What type of writing did they have? Was it pictographic? Can we read it today? Why did it develop? Was it used by other civilizations as well?

Art/Architecture - What role did the arts have in this civilization? What were their main forms of art? What was their architecture like? What can we learn about them from their art?

Slavery - How was slavery a part of this civilization? Were the cities built by forced labor? Was slavery based on race? Was it permanent?

Rise and fall - What caused this civilization to rise and fall? Did they conquer another civilization? Were they conquered? How many times were they conquered? Could they have stayed in power if their geographic location had been different?

Contributions - What were the major contributions of this civilization to the world at their time?
Are there any lasting contributions still seen today? What did they leave us?

Golden Age? - Did this civilization have a golden age? Was there a period in their history when they had a lot of money, power, art, trade and food? How long did it last? Why did it end? What caused it?